



*Attorney Docket No.: D0188.70162US01*  
*Date of Deposit: January 19, 2006*  
*Express Mail Label No.: EV 292458197 US*

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Gregory E. Sancoff et al.  
Serial No.: 10/014991  
Confirmation No.: 4207  
Filed: December 11, 2001  
For: MEDICAL SUTURE INSTRUMENT AND METHOD OF  
USE

Examiner: G. Jackson  
Art Unit: 3731

**MAIL STOP RCE**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

STATEMENT FILED PURSUANT TO THE DUTY OF  
DISCLOSURE UNDER 37 CFR §§1.56, 1.97 AND 1.98

Sir:

Pursuant to the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §§1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the Applicant requests consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement.

PART I: Compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97

This Information Disclosure Statement has been filed before the mailing of a first Office action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 C.F.R. §1.114.

No fee or certification is required.

PART II: Information Cited

The Applicant hereby makes of record in the above-identified application the information listed on the attached form PTO-1449 (modified PTO/SB/08). The order of presentation of the references should not be construed as an indication of the importance of the references.

PART III: Explanation of Non-English Language References and Remarks Concerning Other Information Cited

The following is a concise explanation of the relevance of each non-English language reference listed on the attached form PTO-1449 (modified PTO/SB/08):

Applicant believes that the relevance of German Patent Application No. DE 2927143 may be gleaned from English language family member Patent Nos. U.S. 4,103,690 and U.S. 4,306,560.

PART IV: Remarks

Documents cited anywhere in the Information Disclosure Statement are enclosed unless otherwise indicated. It is respectfully requested that:

1. The Examiner consider completely the cited information, along with any other information, in reaching a determination concerning the patentability of the present claims;
2. The enclosed form PTO-1449 (modified PTO/SB/08) be signed by the Examiner to evidence that the cited information has been fully considered by the Patent and Trademark Office during the examination of this application;
3. The citations for the information be printed on any patent which issues from this application.

By submitting this Information Disclosure Statement, the Applicant makes no representation that a search has been performed, of the extent of any search performed, or that more relevant information does not exist.

By submitting this Information Disclosure Statement, the Applicant makes no representation that the information cited in the Statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

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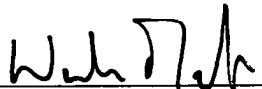
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By submitting this Information Disclosure Statement, the Applicant makes no representation that the information cited in the Statement is, or is considered to be, in fact, prior art as defined by 35 U.S.C. §102.

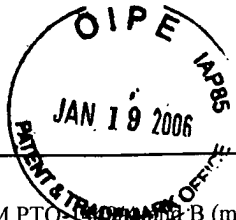
Notwithstanding any statements by the Applicant, the Examiner is urged to form his or her own conclusion regarding the relevance of the cited information.

An early and favorable action is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By:   
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Docket No.: D0188.70162US01  
Date: January 19, 2006  
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<b>FORM PTO-100 (Rev. 12-2005) B (modified PTO/SB/08)</b>  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>				APPLICATION NO.: 10/014991		ATTY. DOCKET NO.: D0188.70162US01			
				FILING DATE: December 11, 2001		CONFIRMATION NO.: 4207			
				APPLICANT: Gregory E. Sancoff et al.					
				GROUP ART UNIT: 3731		EXAMINER: G. Jackson			
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#### U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner's Initials #	Cite No.	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication or Issue of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY
		Number	Kind Code		
	1	2,613,562		Clark	10-14-1952
	2	2,897,820		Tauber	08-04-1958
	3	3,404,677		Springer	10-08-1968
	4	3,470,875		Johnson	10-07-1969
	5	3,584,628		Green	06-15-1971
	6	3,802,438		Wolvek	04-09-1974
	7	3,807,407		Schweizer	04-30-1974
	8	3,841,521		Jarvik	10-15-1974
	9	3,877,570		Barry	04-15-1975
	10	3,959,960		Santos	06-01-1976
	11	4,006,747		Kronenthal et al.	02-08-1977
	12	4,027,608		Arbuckle	06-07-1977
	13	4,109,658		Hughes	08-29-1978
	14	4,204,541		Kapitanov	05-27-1980
	15	4,235,177		Arbuckle	11-25-1980
	16	4,258,716		Sutherland	03-31-1981
	17	4,453,661		Genyk et al.	06-12-1984
	18	4,462,404		Schwarz et al.	07-31-1984
	19	4,474,181		Schenck	10-02-1984
	20	4,553,543		Amarasinghe	11-19-1985
	21	4,557,265		Andersson	12-10-1985
	22	4,583,541		Barry	04-22-1986
	23	4,602,636		Noiles	07-29-1986
	24	4,607,637		Berggren et al.	08-26-1986
	25	4,624,257		Berggren et al.	11-25-1986
	26	4,643,190		Heimberger	02-17-1987
	27	4,644,651		Jacobsen	02-24-1987
	28	4,747,358		Moll et al.	05-31-1988
	29	4,760,848		Hasson	08-02-1988
	30	4,763,669		Jaeger	08-16-1988
	31	4,803,984		Narayanan et al.	02-14-1989
	32	4,819,635		Shapiro	04-11-1989
	33	4,890,615		Caspari et al.	01-02-1990
	34	4,901,721		Hakki	02-20-1990
	35	4,915,107		Rebuffat et al.	04-10-1990
	36	4,923,461		Caspari et al.	05-08-1990

<b>FORM PTO-1449/A and B (modified PTO/SB/08)</b>  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>				APPLICATION NO.: 10/014991		ATTY. DOCKET NO.: D0188.70162US01			
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Examiner's Initials #	Cite No.	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication or Issue of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY
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	37	4,935,027		Yoon	06-19-1990
	38	4,938,214		Specht et al.	07-03-1990
	39	4,941,466		Romano	07-17-1990
	40	4,955,887		Zirm	09-11-1990
	41	4,957,498		Caspari et al.	09-18-1990
	42	5,002,564		McGregor et al.	03-26-1991
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	44	5,133,735		Slater et al.	07-28-1992
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	52	5,261,917		Hasson et al.	11-16-1993
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	55	5,306,281		Beurrier	04-26-1994
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	57	5,308,357		Lichtman	05-03-1994
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	62	5,372,604		Trott	12-13-1994
	63	5,386,741		Rennex	02-07-1995
	64	5,411,522		Trott	05-02-1995
	65	5,417,701		Holmes	05-23-1995
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	68	5,437,681		Meade et al.	08-01-1995
	69	5,474,554		Ku	12-12-1995
	70	5,478,093		Eibl et al.	12-26-1995
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	72	5,498,256		Furnish	03-12-1996

<b>FORM PTO-1449/A and B (modified PTO/SB/08)</b>  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>				APPLICATION NO.: 10/014991		ATTY. DOCKET NO.: D0188.70162US01			
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Examiner's Initials #	Cite No.	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication or Issue of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY
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	75	5,501,688		Whiteside et al.	03-26-1996
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	77	5,501,698		Roth et al.	03-26-1996
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	82	5,709,693		Taylor	01-20-1998
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	84	5,728,112		Yoon	03-17-1998
	85	5,759,188		Yoon	06-02-1998
	86	5,766,186		Faraz et al.	06-16-1998
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	88	5,776,150		Nolan et al.	07-07-1998
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	90	5,814,054		Kortenbach et al.	09-29-1998
	91	5,830,234		Wojciechowicz et al.	11-03-1998
	92	3,545,444		Green	12-08-1970
	93	3,858,783		Kapitanov et al.	01-07-1975
	94	4,103,690		Harris	08-01-1978
	95	4,306,560		Harris	12-22-1981
	96	4,966,600		Songer et al.	10-30-1990
	97	5,417,700		Egan	05-23-1995
	98	5,499,990		Schülken et al.	03-19-1996
	99	5,797,927		Yoon	08-25-1998
	100	5,254,126		Filipi et al.	10-19-1993
	101	6,331,182		Tiefenbrun et al.	12-18-2001
	102	5,334,199		Yoon	08-02-1994
	103	4,935,027		Yoon	06-19-1990
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	105	5,458,609		Gordon et al.	10-17-1995
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	107	5,810,851		Yoon	09-22-1998
	108	5,891,140		Ginn et al.	04-06-1999

FORM PTO-1449/A and B (modified PTO/SB/08)  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>				APPLICATION NO.: 10/014991		ATTY. DOCKET NO.: D0188.70162US01	
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#### FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner's Initials #	Cite No.	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Translation (Y/N)
		Office/Country	Number	Kind Code			
	109	EP	0121362	B1	Ethicon Inc.	10-10-1984	
	110	DE	2927143	A1	Cordis Corp.	01-24-1980	Abstract

#### OTHER ART — NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner's Initials #	Cite No	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	Translation (Y/N)
	111	Auto Suture Company, VCS Clip Applier System, undated	

EXAMINER:	DATE CONSIDERED:
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# EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.

\*a copy of this reference is not provided as it was previously cited by or submitted to the office in a prior application, Serial No. 09/368,273, filed August 3, 1999, and relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. 120 (continuation, continuation-in-part, and divisional applications).

[NOTE – No copies of U.S. patents, published U.S. patent applications, or pending, unpublished patent applications stored in the USPTO's Image File Wrapper (IFW) system, are included. See 37 CFR §1.98 and 1287OG163. Copies of all other patent(s), publication(s), unpublished, pending U.S. patent applications, or other information listed are provided as required by 37 CFR §1.98 unless 1) such copies were provided in an IDS in an earlier application that complies with 37 CFR §1.98, and 2) the earlier application is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. §120.]